

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A currency bill scanning device, comprising:
a receptacle for holding currency bills;
means for obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving one or more of the currency bills;
an image scanner operable to obtain an image from at least one side of a received currency bill and to extract a serial number of the received currency bill from the image;
and
a processor communicatively coupled to the image scanner, the processor operable to create a data file comprising the one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill to allow for the involved one or more currency bills to be subsequently traced by serial number to that transaction.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner obtains a full image of each currency bill.
5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.
6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the means for obtaining the identifier comprises a data entry device.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a keypad.
8. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a card reader.
9. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a biometric scanner.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 further including a currency bill denomination discriminator.
12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11 wherein the denomination discriminator is operative to extract a bill denomination value from the image.
13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 further including a transport mechanism adapted to transport the one or more currency bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past the image scanner, to at least one output receptacle.
14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13 wherein the one or more currency bills are transported by the transport mechanism with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport.
15. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles.
16. (Original) The device of claim 1 further including a controller adapted to control the operation of the device.
17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 further including a memory for storing the data file.
18. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising an interface through which the data file is communicated from the device to a computer.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a denomination of the currency bill that is further included in the data file.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill that is further included in the data file.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a signatory on the currency bill that is further included in the data file.

22-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing currency bills, comprising:
obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;
distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;
at least partially imaging each distributed currency bill;
using a processor, extracting a currency bill serial number from the currency bill image; and

using the processor or another processor, linking the currency bill image with the serial number(s) for the distributed currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the distribution transaction comprises a currency bill withdrawal transaction.

39-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein linking comprises forming an image file containing the at least partial image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

42-46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously Presented) A device for distributing currency bills, comprising:
means for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;
a mechanism for distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;
an imaging device operable to at least partially image each distributed currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the image device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the distributed currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

48. (Original) The device of claim 47 wherein the distribution transaction comprises a currency bill withdrawal transaction.

49-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 47 wherein the linking includes forming an image file containing the image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

52-56. (Cancelled).

57. (Previously Presented) A device for distributing currency bills, comprising:
a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;
a mechanism for distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;
an imaging device operable to at least partially image each distributed currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the

distributed currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2 further including a memory for storing the data file.

60-68. (Cancelled).

69. (New) A currency bill scanning method, comprising:
receiving currency bills;
obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving the received currency bills;
scanning the currency bills to obtain an image from at least one side of each received currency bill;
using a processor, extracting a serial number of each received currency bill from the obtained images; and
using the processor or another processor, creating a data file comprising fields populated with at least a portion of the obtained currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image field is tagged to additional fields including the extracted serial number and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill thereby allowing the received currency bills to be subsequently traced by serial number to the transaction.

70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein scanning obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.

72. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein scanning obtains a full image of each currency bill.

73. (New) The method of claim 72 wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.

74. (New) The method of claim 69 further including denominating each currency bill.

75. (New) The method of claim 74 wherein denominating comprises extracting a bill denomination value from the image.

76. (New) The method of claim 69 further including transporting the currency bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle to at least one output receptacle.

77. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the currency bills are transported with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport.

78. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles.

79. (New) The method of claim 69 further comprising storing the data file.

80. (New) The method of claim 69 further comprising communicating the data file through an interface associated with a network.

81. (New) The method of claim 69 further including extracting a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill, the extract Federal Reserve Bank number further being included in the data file.

82. (New) The method of claim 69 further including extracting a signatory from the currency bill, the signatory further being included in the data file.

83. (New) A method for receiving currency bills, comprising:
obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;
receiving a plurality of currency bills for the transaction;
at least partially imaging each received currency bill and extracting a currency bill serial number from the currency bill image; and
using a processor, linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier thereby allowing the received currency bills(s) to be traced to the reception transaction by their serial number,
wherein linking comprises forming an image file populated with fields containing the at least partial image of each currency bill for that transaction, the serial number associated with the partial image, and the transaction identifier.

84. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein the reception transaction comprises a currency bill deposit transaction.

85. (New) A device for receiving currency bills, comprising:
means for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;
a mechanism for receiving a plurality of currency bills for the reception transaction;
an imaging device operable to at least partially image each received currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier thereby allowing the received currency bills to be traced to the reception transaction by their serial number,
wherein the linking includes forming an image file populated with fields containing the image of each received currency bill, each extracted serial number, and the transaction identifier.

86. (New) The device of claim 85 wherein the reception transaction comprises a currency bill deposit transaction.

87. (New) A device for receiving currency bills, comprising:
a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;
a mechanism for receiving a plurality of currency bills for the reception transaction;
an imaging device operable to at least partially image each received currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier thereby allowing the received currency bills to be traced to the reception transaction by their serial number,
wherein the linking includes forming a data file populated with fields containing the image of each currency bill for the reception transaction, the associated currency bill serial number, and the transaction identifier.